

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 - 2 (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A wide-angle constant-velocity joint comprising:

two forks forming input and output members of the joint, the forks having respective spherical end heads;

two spiders;

5 a central core forming a housing;

one basically discoidal constraint member forming seats for the spherical end heads of said two forks, said housing receiving said constraint member for sliding movement in a transverse plane of symmetry of the central core, said constraint member moving when in use in the transverse plane, said housing having two surfaces disposed parallel to the transverse plane;

10 a laminar ring interposed between one of said two surfaces and an opposing face of said constraint member resulting in continuous annular contact with said one of said two surfaces; and

15 another laminar ring interposed between another one of said two surfaces and another opposing face of said constraint member resulting in continuous annular contact with said another one of said two surfaces and with said opposing face of the constraint member, wherein at least one of said laminar ring and said another laminar ring is formed of an elastic material and is shaped as a Belleville washer which bears via an outer edge on one of said two

surfaces and via an inner edge against the opposing face of said constraint member.

4. (Previously Presented) A constant-velocity joint according to claim 3, wherein both of said laminar rings are of an elastic material and shaped as Belleville washers.

5. (Currently Amended) A wide-angle constant-velocity joint comprising:

a first fork forming an input or output member of the joint, said first fork having a first fork spherical end head;

5 a second fork forming an input or output member of the joint, said second fork having a second fork spherical end head;

a central core forming a housing;

a first spider pivotally connected to said first fork and to said housing;

a second spider pivotally connected to said first fork and to said housing;

10 a discoidal constraint member having a first seat receiving said first fork spherical end head and having a second seat receiving said second fork spherical end head, said housing supporting said constraint member for sliding movement in a transverse plane of symmetry of the central core, said constraint member moving when in use in the transverse plane, said housing having a first surface and a second surface disposed parallel to the transverse plane;

15 a first laminar ring interposed between said first surface and an opposing first face of said constraint member resulting in continuous annular contact with said first surface; and

a second laminar ring interposed between said second surface and an opposing second

face of said constraint member resulting in continuous annular contact with said second surface and with said opposing second face of the constraint member, wherein said first laminar ring is formed of an elastic material shaped as a diaphragm spring washer having an outer edge bearing against said first surface and having an inner edge bearing against said opposing first face of said constraint member to form a sealing barrier to retain lubricant in said housing and restrict lubricant from passing from said housing beyond said first surface.

6 - 7 (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A wide-angle constant-velocity joint comprising:

a first fork forming an input or output member of the joint, said first fork having a first fork spherical end head;

a second fork forming an input or output member of the joint, said second fork having a second fork spherical end head;

a central core forming a housing;

a first spider pivotally connected to said first fork and to said housing;

a second spider pivotally connected to said first fork and to said housing;

a discoidal constraint member having a first seat receiving said first fork spherical end head and having a second seat receiving said second fork spherical end head, said housing supporting said constraint member for sliding movement in a transverse plane of symmetry of the central core, said constraint member moving when in use in the transverse plane, said

housing having a first surface and a second surface disposed parallel to the transverse plane;
a first laminar ring interposed between said first surface and an opposing first face of
15 said constraint member resulting in continuous annular contact with said first surface, said first
laminar ring having an opening through which said first seat extends, said first laminar ring
being floatingly mounted in said housing to move within said housing upon movement of said
first seat; and

a second laminar ring interposed between said second surface and an opposing second
20 face of said constraint member resulting in continuous annular contact with said second surface
and with said opposing second face of the constraint member, said second laminar ring being
floatingly mounted in said housing to move within said housing upon movement of said
second seat, wherein said first laminar ring is formed of an elastic material shaped as a
diaphragm spring washer having an outer edge constantly bearing against said first surface
25 during movement of said first laminar ring and having an inner edge constantly bearing against
said opposing first face of said constraint member during movement of said first laminar ring
to form a sealing barrier to retain lubricant in said housing and restrict lubricant from passing
from said housing beyond said first surface.

9. (Currently Amended) A constant-velocity joint according to claim 8, wherein said
second laminar ring is formed of an elastic material shaped as a diaphragm spring washer
having an outer edge constantly bearing against said second surface during movement of said
second laminar ring and having an inner edge constantly bearing against said opposing second

- 5 face of said constraint member during movement of said second laminar ring to form a sealing barrier to retain lubricant in said housing and restrict lubricant from passing from said housing beyond said second surface.

10. (Canceled)